

SEVENTY-SEVENTH  
ANNUAL REPORT

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MECHANICS'  
INSTITUTE

SAN FRANCISCO  
CALIFORNIA

NINETEEN HUNDRED  
THIRTY-TWO



SEVENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT  
of the  
MECHANICS' INSTITUTE  
for the  
Year Ending February 29, 1932

## MECHANICS' INSTITUTE OFFICERS

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Year Ending February 29, 1932

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## MECHANICS' INSTITUTE

### Mechanics'-Mercantile Library

### Mechanics' Institute Chess and Checker Club

57 Post Street  
San Francisco, California

The Library now contains nearly one hundred and twenty thousand volumes.

Special attention is given to the division of technology.

Over five hundred periodicals and newspapers are on file.

A chess and checker room is maintained, where smoking is permitted.

Lecture courses are held each season.

Library open daily, 9 a. m. to 10 p. m.

Sunday, 1 p. m. to 5 p. m.

Chess room, daily, 9 a. m. to 10 p. m.

### TERMS OF MEMBERSHIP

Entrance Fee .....\$ 1.00  
Half-yearly Dues (in advance)..... 3.00  
Life Membership ..... 100.00

Non-residents may use the Library for one month on payment of fifty cents.

A member may introduce a friend (not a resident of the city), who will be allowed the use of the Library rooms for one month.

### LIBRARY RULES

Members may take out four books at a time and extra books on payment of five cents each.

New fiction may be kept one week only. Other books may be kept two weeks and the time may be extended for two weeks longer by giving notice at the Library desk, or by mail or telephone Garfield 1750. A charge of two cents a day will be made on books kept over time.

Members' requests for books to be purchased will receive careful consideration.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

San Francisco, March 10, 1932.

*To the Members of the Mechanics' Institute:*

I have the honor to present the annual report of the Mechanics' Institute, the seventy-seventh since its organization.

Before entering into the details of the year's work it is my sad duty to announce the death, on February 17, 1932, of Otto von Geldern, the Institute's President. Mr. von Geldern became a member of the Mechanics' Institute on August 23, 1899; was elected a Trustee in March, 1901; served as Corresponding Secretary from March, 1919, to December, 1927; as Second Vice-President from December, 1927, to June, 1928, and as First Vice-President from June, 1928, to March, 1929. In March, 1929, he was elected President and served as such until the date of his death. As President of the Mechanics' Institute he became a Regent of the University of California, in which position he served with honor to himself and credit to the Institute. He was prominent in the field of engineering and active in many learned societies, among them the California Academy of Sciences (of which he was Vice-President), the American Society of Civil Engineers, Astronomical Society of the Pacific, American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Seismological Society of America, and the Meteorological Society. His favorite activity however, was that of the Mechanics' Institute, and he devoted much of his time and thought to its welfare. It was my privilege to have served with him on the Board of Trustees for nearly twenty-five years. He was always kindly, helpful and considerate of the rights and feelings of his fellow members. He was a gentleman in every sense of the word and respected scholarship for its own sake. In his passing the Institute has lost a most zealous worker, the Board of Trustees a much beloved companion and the community at large, a good citizen.

The Mechanics' Institute is the oldest educational institution in San Francisco, having been organized in 1855. Its purpose was and continues to be to stimulate its members, and especially the youth of the city, to appreciate the necessity of

helping to develop the city intellectually, mechanically and socially. It maintains a library of some 120,000 volumes which, while largely general in character, specializes in scientific and technical literature to such an extent that it is recognized as the best technical collection west of Chicago. Its reference department under the able direction of Mrs. Mary O. Carmody, Assistant Librarian, has become known as a haven to those seeking technical information. In its earlier days the Institute maintained science classes, but the subsequent development of the public school system and universities along those lines obviated the necessity of continuing them. A course of lectures is given each year and, judging from the heavy attendance, is much appreciated by the membership. It has been the experience of the country in general that libraries depending solely upon subscriptions for their support and maintenance have not been financially successful and the Mechanics' Library is no exception to this rule. It was, however, the good fortune of the Institute to have had in its early history, among its Trustees, men of vision who appreciated the necessities and the possibilities of the Institute's work, and who provided for it by the establishment and fostering of the Mechanics' Fairs which continued in existence until 1899, the proceeds of which built up the library and the needs of which required the acquisition of the so-called Pavilion Block at Larkin and Hayes Streets. The sale of this property, in 1912, to the city of San Francisco for the site of the present Civic Auditorium provided an endowment fund from the income of which is met the deficit due to the maintenance of the Library and the Institute's other educational activities.

In the past year the cost of operating the library in excess of the receipts therefrom has been approximately \$45,000. The Post Street Building has produced a profit of close to \$29,000, and the receipts from investments has been something over \$38,000. While the net profit amount is somewhat less than that of last year, the showing is to be considered as being good in view of the existing financial depression. For details concerning the receipts and expenditures I beg to refer you to the report of Mr. Wood, the Secretary. The membership shows a decrease of 547, the present number being 4499. There were added to the library 4581 volumes, making the total of books listed as 118,928. Since the fire of 1906 the sum of \$304,920.73

has been expended for books, periodicals and binding of new books. During the past year 254,205 volumes were circulated, a monthly average of 21,183. This represents an increase of over 1300 volumes per month over last year.

On December 14, 1931, Mr. Robert D. Colquhoun, who first entered the employ of the Institute in 1890, passed away. Mr. Colquhoun continued as an employee in the library until 1907, when he resigned. He was elected a Trustee of the Institute in March, 1908, and continued as such until May, 1909, when he resigned as Trustee and again entered the employ of the Institute. He continued in its employment until he was retired on pension in March, 1927.

Your Board of Trustees has elected Mr. Andrew Y. Wood to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Otto von Geldern, deceased, and his election will come before you later for confirmation.

During the year the Institute had occasion to foreclose on one of its investment mortgages covering property at Third and Stillman Streets, San Francisco. The real estate market does not justify the disposal of this property at this time, but your Trustees will, I am sure, take care of the matter when the opportune time arrives.

While the year just ended has not been as productive as it would have been under conditions which ruled in previous years, a comparative analysis indicates that our financial transactions have been more satisfactory than those of similar institutions. The outlook for the coming year at this time is not so cheerful, but you may rest assured that the interests of the Institute will be carefully looked after by the Board of Trustees.

At the last election, held February 23, 1932, Messrs. R. F. Allen, Joseph M. Cumming, George U. Hind, James H. Lyons, Constant Meese, William N. Rolph and Elgin Stoddard were re-elected as Trustees without opposition.

On behalf of the late President von Geldern, I beg to thank the Trustees for their assistance to him in the conduct of the work of the Institute.

I wish also to give credit to our employees for their loyalty—particularly to Mr. Wood, our Secretary, in charge of our financial affairs, and to Mr. Graves in charge of the library.

DR. ARTHUR W. SCOTT, President.

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

For the Year Ending February 29, 1932

San Francisco, March 10, 1932.

To the Board of Trustees of the Mechanics' Institute,  
San Francisco.

Gentlemen:—

I have the honor to present herewith financial statement of the Mechanics' Institute for the year ending February 29, 1932:

March 1, 1931, Cash on deposit in various banks.....	\$ 92,401.37
Cash in contingent funds.....	450.00
Total Cash .....	\$ 92,851.37

### RECEIPTS

Mechanics' Institute Building—rent collections from March 1, 1931, to February 29, 1932..	\$ 61,013.40
Interest, Ernest N. Atkins Memorial Fund...	30.00
Interest, James Lick Fund.....	600.00
Interest, Commercial and Savings Account....	3,220.60
Interest, Mortgage Receivable Accounts.....	9,424.08
Interest, Bonds .....	24,731.06
Tax Judgment .....	139.19
Third St. Property, Income Account.....	350.00
Library and General Administration:	
Dues .....	\$ 21,371.50
Entrance Fees .....	713.00
Books Paid For.....	180.20
Fines and Extra Books.....	2,643.50
Sundry .....	63.70
	24,971.90

Received from Investments Accounts:	
Bonds Matured .....	\$ 22,500.00
Paid on Mortgages Account....	1,400.00
	23,900.00
Total Cash received.....	148,380.23

\$241,231.60

### EXPENDITURES

Mechanics' Institute Building—operating expenses from March 1, 1931, to February 29, 1932:	
Pay Roll .....	\$ 15,406.85
Taxes .....	9,409.16
Insurance .....	590.49
Heat .....	740.82

Light and Power.....	2,882.08
Water .....	258.42
Window Cleaning .....	420.00
Supplies .....	375.90
Repairs .....	1,826.65
General Expense .....	565.47
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	\$ 32,475.84

## Library and General Administration:

Books, Binding and Periodicals..\$	15,590.96
Furniture and Equipment.....	8.50
General Expense .....	2,600.31
Insurance .....	881.31
Legal Expense .....	250.00
Lectures .....	629.21
Printing and Stationery.....	378.48
Salaries .....	30,111.10
Supplies .....	425.03
Taxes .....	54.54
Monthly Bulletin .....	315.00
Rent of Library Rooms.....	18,720.00
	<hr/>
	69,964.44
Pension Account .....	921.30
	<hr/>

Total ..... \$103,361.58

## Investments Account:

Bonds purchased .....	\$ 30,657.00
Bond Premium Account.....	292.66
Post St. Building—Cost Account.....	349.00
	<hr/>

Total ..... 31,298.66

Total Cash paid out..... \$134,660.24

Cash on hand in various banks, Feb. 29, 1932..	\$106,121.36
Cash on hand in contingent funds.....	450.00
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Total Cash on hand..... \$106,571.36

\$241,231.60

## SUMMARY

Cash on hand, March 1, 1931.....	\$ 92,851.37
Total Receipts .....	\$124,480.23
Total Expense .....	103,361.58
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Excess Receipts .....	21,118.65
Received from Investments Accounts.....	23,900.00
	<hr/>
	\$137,870.02

## DISTRIBUTION

Cash in various banks, Feb. 29, 1932.....	\$106,121.36
Cash in contingent funds.....	450.00
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Total Cash .....	\$106,571.36
Investments made from surplus.....	30,949.66
Post St. Building—Cost Account.....	349.00
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	\$137,870.02

The net amount expended since April 18, 1906, on Books,  
Binding of new Books, and Periodicals has been..... 304,920.73  
The amount paid out for construction, equipment, etc.,  
of the Post St. Building has been..... 389,185.81

## Insurance is carried as follows:

Books .....	\$100,000.00
Furniture .....	7,500.00
Post St. Building.....	286,500.00
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## The Resources of the Mechanics' Institute are as follows:

Post St. lot covered by Mechanics' Institute Building.  
First Mortgages for \$137,900.00 on San Francisco Real Estate.

Bonds to the par value of \$518,151.40, as follows:

\$206,000.00	San Francisco, Cal., City Hall 5 %.
10,900.00	San Francisco, Cal., Municipal Railway 5%.
9,000.00	San Francisco, Cal., Water 4½%.
3,000.00	San Francisco, Cal., Fire Protection 5%.
29,000.00	San Francisco, Cal., Golden Gate Park 3½%.
5,000.00	San Francisco, Cal., Hetch Hetchy Water 5%.
200.00	San Francisco, Cal., Library 3½%.
1,000.00	San Francisco, Cal., Playground 3½%.
8,000.00	San Francisco, Cal., School 4½%.
5,000.00	San Francisco, Cal., School 5%.
3,000.00	Albany, Cal., Municipal Improvement 5%.
1,357.50	Berkeley, Cal., Municipal Improvement 4½%.
5,000.00	Berkeley, Cal., School District 5%.
1,875.00	Chico, Cal., Municipal Improvement 5%.
3,000.00	Cloverdale, Cal., Municipal Improvement 5%.
10,000.00	East Bay Municipal Utilities 5%.
2,000.00	Exeter, Cal., Union High School District 5%.
2,000.00	Gilroy, Cal. School District 5%.
2,000.00	Grass Valley, Cal., High School District 6%.
2,000.00	Hanford, Cal., Municipal Improvement 5%.
6,000.00	Livermore, Cal., Municipal Improvements 5%.
1,000.00	Los Angeles Harbor Improvement 5%.
10,000.00	Marin Municipal Water District 5%.

1,000.00	Merced Union High School 6%.
4,393.90	Monterey, Cal., Municipal Improvement 5%.
700.00	Nevada City, Cal., Sewer 6%.
7,000.00	Oakland, Cal., School District 5%.
2,500.00	Oakland, Cal., Municipal Improvement 5½%.
1,000.00	Oroville, Cal., Levee 5%.
500.00	Oxnard, Cal., Water 5%.
5,000.00	Petaluma, Cal., City High School 6%.
3,000.00	Pittsburg, Cal., Municipal Improvement 5%.
3,000.00	Placerville, Cal., Municipal Improvement 5%.
1,000.00	Placerville, Cal., Municipal Street Work 5%.
4,000.00	Placerville, Cal., School District 5%.
3,000.00	Richmond, Cal., Municipal Harbor Improvement 6%.
1,000.00	Richmond, Cal., School District 4½%.
5,000.00	Richmond, Cal., School District 5½%.
2,000.00	Sacramento, Cal., Filtration 5%.
7,000.00	Sacramento, Cal., New Levee 4½%.
5,000.00	Sacramento, Cal., School District 4½%.
8,000.00	Sacramento, Cal., High School District 4½%.
4,000.00	Salinas, Cal., Union High School District 5%.
1,000.00	San Luis Obispo, Cal., Municipal Improvement 5%.
15,000.00	San Luis Obispo, Cal., School District 6%.
1,000.00	San Mateo, Cal., Union High School 6%.
5,000.00	Santa Barbara, Cal., Municipal Improvement 5%.
1,125.00	Santa Barbara, Cal., School District 4½%.
1,000.00	Santa Maria, Cal., Union High School District 6%.
10,000.00	Santa Rosa, Cal., Union High School District 5%.
1,000.00	Sequoia, Cal., Union High School District 6%.
10,000.00	Stockton, Cal., School District 5%.
2,600.00	Visalia, Cal., Municipal Improvement 6%.
5,000.00	Washington, (Cal.), Union High School District 5%.
1,000.00	Williams, Cal., Municipal Improvement 5½%.
25,000.00	Butte County, Cal., Highway 5%.
1,000.00	Contra Costa County, Cal., 5%.
15,000.00	Fresno County, Cal., 5%.
5,000.00	Merced County, Cal., 5%.
2,000.00	San Mateo County, Cal., Highway 5%.
7,000.00	Sonoma County, Cal., 5%.
5,000.00	California State University Building 4½%.
10,000.00	California State Veterans' Welfare 4½%.
Cash on hand, March 1, 1932, \$106,571.36.	
Books, Furniture and Equipment of the Library.	

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN H. WOOD, Secretary.

## LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

San Francisco, March 10, 1932.

To the President and Board of  
Trustees, Mechanics' Institute.  
Gentlemen:

I herewith submit the seventy-seventh annual report of the  
Library for the year ending February 29, 1932:

## Membership

March 1, 1931.....	4546
Added—Subscribing .....	719
Reinstated .....	21
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Withdrawn—Life (deceased) .....	14
Subscribing .....	773
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	5286

Membership, February 29, 1932..... 4499

During the year fourteen subscribing members who had paid continuously for thirty years were, according to the Constitution, granted life memberships. The membership is divided as follows:

Honorary .....	2
Life .....	662
Subscribing .....	3835

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4499

## Book Accessions

Number of volumes listed March 1, 1931.....	114,347
Added by purchase .....	4197
Added by binding.....	354
Added by gift.....	389
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	4,940
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	119,287
Less lost, paid for, and discarded.....	359
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Net gain .....	4,581
Number of volumes listed February 29, 1932.....	118,928

## Binding

1363 volumes were rebound at the bindery and 4875 were repaired at the library.

## Gifts

3115 unbound items, consisting of pamphlets and serial publications, were presented to the library during the year.

## Accessions by Classes

	Purchased	Cost	Bound	Cost	Gifts	Total
General Works .....	50	\$ 250.17	55	\$119.70	19	124
Philosophy .....	125	282.65	3	6.00	5	133
Religion .....	37	113.28	..	.....	3	40
Sociology .....	254	886.31	33	77.80	93	380
Philology .....	3	9.82	..	.....	..	3
Science .....	122	614.53	61	132.00	17	200
Useful Arts .....	199	764.86	145	343.15	25	369
Fine Arts .....	180	618.57	36	91.85	11	227
Literature .....	311	577.93	8	12.90	99	418
Foreign Literature .....	21	28.91	..	.....	37	58
Travel .....	241	683.77	6	13.20	18	265
Biography .....	360	1,087.35	1	2.00	11	372
History .....	201	643.52	6	13.10	22	229
Fiction and Children's Books .....	2,093	3,418.90	..	.....	29	2,122
	4,197	\$9,980.57	354	\$811.70	389	4,940

## Circulation

There were issued for home use 254,205 volumes, an average monthly circulation of 21,183 volumes.

## Table of Circulation Statistics

General Works .....	591	Foreign Literature .....	884
Philosophy .....	4,779	Foreign Fiction .....	1,167
Religion .....	1,490	Travel .....	12,197
Sociology .....	5,973	Biography .....	13,980
Philology .....	87	History .....	7,225
Science .....	4,687	Fiction .....	165,403
Useful Arts .....	7,941	Children's Books .....	1,250
Fine Arts .....	7,875	Periodicals .....	4,777
Literature .....	13,899		
			254,205

Fiction .....	165,403	volumes, 65.07	per cent
Children's Books .....	1,250	"	0.49 "
Non-fiction .....	87,552	"	34.44 "

Respectfully submitted,

FRANCIS B. GRAVES, Librarian.

## APPENDIX

Year Ending Feb. 28	Sub- scribing	Membership Life and Honorary	Total	Volumes in Library	Circula- tion
1932 .....	3,835	664	4,499	118,928	254,205
1931 .....	3,878	666	4,546	114,347	237,974
1930 .....	3,748	677	4,425	108,697	208,552
1929 .....	3,657	679	4,336	103,123	176,174
1928 .....	3,789	703	4,492	98,195	165,253
1927 .....	4,032	702	4,734	102,056	161,980
1926 .....	4,030	690	4,723	98,696	164,347
1925 .....	4,170	690	4,860	94,992	169,631
1924 .....	4,356	652	5,008	91,433	172,712
1923 .....	4,317	657	4,974	87,855	172,902
1922 .....	4,160	646	4,806	84,056	175,502
1921 .....	3,842	650	4,492	80,776	150,376
1920 .....	3,408	649	4,057	77,140	128,480
1919 .....	2,994	653	3,647	73,128	101,728
1918 .....	3,135	590	3,725	70,055	118,159
1917 .....	3,144	598	3,742	65,875	132,721
1916 .....	2,982	617	3,599	63,672	127,866
1915 .....	2,862	626	3,488	56,740	131,687
1914 .....	2,709	632	3,341	50,776	125,650
1913 .....	2,855	643	3,498	44,527	118,998
1912 .....	2,660	644	3,304	39,266	110,194
1911 .....	2,385	651	3,036	35,392	88,753
1910 .....	1,717	645	2,362	32,186	71,741
1909 .....	2,034	646	2,680	28,324	83,042
1908 .....	2,120	643	2,763	24,179	.....
1907 .....	2,726	651	3,377	17,850	.....
April 18, 1906...	.....	...	4,150	.....	.....

## MECHANICS' INSTITUTE PUBLICATIONS

## In Print

Annual Reports, 1907 to date.

List of books on architecture. August, 1913.

List of books on building and building materials. December, 1913.

List of books on electrical engineering. June, 1916.

List of books on petroleum. January, 1917.

List of books on aeronautics and military and naval engineering.  
January, 1918.

List of books added, 1914 to date.

Seventy-five years of history of the Mechanics' Institute, 1930.

